



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



JOEL AYALA
DIRECTOR

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CONTACT: Brook Taylor
(916) 322-0667

State Designated Innovation Hub in San Diego Expands to Include Parts of Riverside County

SAN DIEGO, CA – The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GoED) today announced the expansion of the San Diego Innovation Hub (iHub) to include parts of Southwest Riverside County. Several public and private sector representatives were gathered at the headquarters of Biomatrix Inc. as San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and Joel Ayala, Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, unveiled the new San Diego Innovations Hub boundaries which now extend along the Interstate 215 corridor to the University of California at Riverside.

"This expansion strengthens our network of collaborators on innovation," said San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. "This means more opportunities to take technologies from the lab to the marketplace, which in turn creates jobs and a stronger regional economy."

The partnership between San Diego and Riverside was solidified when the two regions joined forces to collaborate on a recent grant application submitted to the U.S Economic Development Administration's for their I6 Green Challenge. The regional partnership put forth an application centered on research being conducted at the University of California at Riverside and the San Diego Zoo dealing with advancements in the field of Bio-Mimicry.

"This partnership expands the already strong network of innovative companies working to commercialize new products and conduct cutting edge research," said Director Ayala. "My office is proud to support the public and private sector partners in this region as they propel California into the future of our economy."

In addition to the partnership between UC Riverside and the San Diego Zoo, cities such as Murrieta and Temecula have been actively engaged to develop this partnership and emphasize the innovative companies along the Interstate 215 corridor.

Launched in 2010, California's iHub Initiative provides a platform for regional innovation clusters to flourish. The iHub initiative allows business, academia, government, and venture capitalists to leverage such assets as research parks, technology incubators, universities and federal laboratories in an effort to foster innovation as a statewide job creation and community building tool.

The San Diego iHub was the seventh regional innovation cluster designated by the state in June of 2010 and is lead by CONNECT. CONNECT is a non-profit organization formed in 1985 with the mission of commercializing technology coming from San Diego's many federally-funded research institutions and offering on-going education, networking and recognition to start-up companies in emerging technology business clusters.

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